**Consumption of fertilizers**

1489. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to siate :

(a) the quantum of different kinds of fertilizers consumed by various States annually during the last three years;

(b) the agencUs/organisations involved in the distribution and sale of fertilizers; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the consumption of fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) A statement indicating the quantum of different fertilizer nutrients consumed by States during the y;ars 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is at Annexure. *[See* Appendk 172, Annexure No. 34]

(b) The State institutional agencies namely, the State Co-operatives, the State Agro-Industries Corporations, the State Marketing Federation etc., the public sector organisations and private agencies are involved in the distribution and sale of fertilizers.

(c) The Government of India has taken the following steps to increase the consumption of fertilisers in the country :—

(i) concession of Rs. 1000 per tonne each on Muriate of Potash (MOP) and indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), proportionate per tonne concession on indigenous complexes and Rs. 340 per tonne on SSP is being given during 1994-95.

(ii) sale of fertilisers to farmers in small bags;

(iii) free soil testing service to farmers;

(iv) a scheme on balanced use of fertilisers is being implemented which is expected to help in generating demand and promoting balanced use of fertilisers; and

(v) a scheme on Bio-fertiliser production and promotion is being implemented. This is expected to help in supply and use of organic forms of plant nutrients.

**Creation of Centra! body for Agricultural Export Promotion**

1490. DR. -NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will tfo Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the creation of a Central body for agricultural exportpromotion and identification of competitive products for processing and exports; if so, what is the latest position and details thereof; and

(b) what are details of the present directions of such exports and the projected directions for the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Major agricultural products like deoiled ;:ikes, cashew, tobacco, spices, rice, wheal, fruits and vegetables etc. are being exported to the countries in West Asia, South East Asia, U.S.A. and Europe and the posibilities of their exports to Israel ar.d South Africa are l""*ing explored.

**Production of cotton**

1491. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under cotton cultivation in the country;

(b) whet ler Government have a proposal to increase the areas under cotton cultivation during the Eighth and Ninth Plan periods;

(c) if so, the additional areas identified for the purpose;

(d) whether Government propose to grow cotton in the non-traditional areas too; and

(e) if so, the plan drawn up thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The total area under cotton cultivation in the country is around 75 lakh hectare.

(b) No, Sir.

(cj Question does not arise.

(d) There is no specific proposal as yet to grow cotton in the non-traditional areas.

(e) Question does not arise.

**कृषक एसोसिएशन का गठन**

1492. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1992 में त्वरित कृषि विकास हेतु किसानों अनुसंधान संस्थाओं, वित्तीय संस्थानों तथा अन्य पक्षों के सहयोग से एक लघु कृषक एसोसिएशन गठित करने का निर्णय लिया था :

(ख) यदि हां, तो जनवरी, 1994 तक सरकार